

Chairman's Annual Report
2014 / 2015

During a year that commenced with legislation passed under the Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 which covers the Openness and Transparency of Public Bodies which, allows for the filming, photographing and recording of council meetings; I am pleased to report that the parish council has not set aside any funding for acting lessons, make up tips or clothing budgets. Indeed, whether we are not as photogenic as some council's, (I'll leave you to judge) nor have we received any requests for filming.

Moving swiftly on to more serious matters and following the need for Lisa (our previous clerk) to resign for personal reasons, we welcomed back a familiar face with Amanda reapplying and taking up the post.

On a very serious note, the year had started with a road traffic accident in the village which could very easily have been a fatality. Following this I immediately held a meeting with senior highways officers, who, although based on evidence, were not required to do anything, did accede to our request to take action and suggested the road narrowing lines and also carried out a speed survey. This situation is being closely monitored by the parish council.

Other concerns in the village were minor by comparison however; we are still struggling with the perennial problem of dog fouling which is rather sad when we live in such a close knit community. As I have said before, the majority of dog owners are responsible but a few are still letting the other residents down.

The parish council finances are in a sound position and we continue to maintain a balanced budget with a small reserve. Our Parish Clerk, who is also our Responsible Financial Officer, maintains strict and efficient control of our finances and does a fantastic job. My thanks must also go to Mr Philips from School House who has for some time now acted as our Internal Auditor and independently reviews our financial transactions and statements before they are sent to the District Auditor.

During the year, I had the honour of laying a wreath at the newly planted commemoration tree in the graveyard to pay tribute to those from this village who lost their lives during conflict. A beautifully worded plaque pays tribute to their sacrifice.

I am pleased to say that the vibrancy of the village goes from strength to strength with the many groups and individuals playing their part and whose members volunteer to host a multitude of events which continually keeps us entertained. Our continued support is essential to the lifeblood of these groups and this community. Add to that, the support that is given to individuals, behind the scenes, in their day to day lives and it is no wonder that Hemingby is such a special place to live.

With the forthcoming elections we may well see some changes on the parish council however, before this; I would like to thank all my colleagues for their support and commitment over the last year and for their valued contributions. Amanda, our Parish Clerk, for her continued hard work and of course my wife whose total support and commitment makes it possible for me to serve such a valued community.

Finally, my thanks must go to all residents who contribute to our enjoyable lifestyle and sociability making this, in my humble opinion one of the best places to live in the country.

Regards

Doug Rodwell
Chair